

The Secretary exhibited a Spider of the genus *Tegenaria*, which had been forwarded to him from Cape Town with the following letter :—

Cape Town,  
April 9, 1880.

Dear Sir,—

I send per this post a registered package, containing a "Tarantula" Spider. I caught it within three miles of Cape Town, on the back of a horse. All here were very unwilling to touch it, owing to its deadly bite ; but I, using chloroform, secured it. The mare has since died ; and the effects produced by the bite are similar to St. Vitus's dance in a human being. Trusting to hear of its safe arrival,

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours very faithfully,

J. H. PAYNE.

The Secretary stated that Mr. O. P. Cambridge, to whom he had submitted the specimen, had kindly examined the Spider, and had pronounced it to belong to an apparently new species of *Tegenaria*, closely allied to *T. guyoni*, a species common in London cellars.

Mr. Cambridge confessed to much incredulity as to the mare having died from the bite of this Spider, and said that, though no doubt the facts stated were correct so far as regards the Spider having been found on the back of the mare and the mare having subsequently died, he required very clear and good evidence besides to convince him that the two facts were related to each other as cause and effect.

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Mr. G. E. Dobson exhibited a new and remarkable species of *Megaderma*, proposed to be called *M. gigas*, sent from Queensland to the Göttingen Museum by Dr. Schuette.

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Lord Lilford exhibited and made remarks upon some specimens of hybrid Pheasants between males of *Phasianus reevesi* and hens of *P. colchicus* and allied species, remarkable for their size and beautiful plumage.

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The following papers were read :—

1. Note on the Distribution of the Crayfish (*Astacus*) in Spain. By E. W. H. HOLDSWORTH, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

[Received April 20, 1880.]

In the valuable memoir by Professor Huxley on the Classification and Distribution of the Crayfishes, published in the 'Proceedings' of this Society (1879, p. 752), the author refers to the long-standing belief that the Crayfish is not to be found in the Spanish rivers ; but he thought there was little doubt that it was to be met with about

Barcelona. It having been stated by some gentlemen who heard Professor Huxley's paper read, that Crayfishes were certainly supplied to the Madrid market, I was led to move some of my Spanish friends to make careful inquiries as to the localities whence these Madrid Crayfishes are obtained. The result showed that they are procured in considerable numbers at only a short distance from Madrid itself. The Crayfish appears to be unknown in the rivers Douro and Tagus, on the western side of the Peninsula, and in the Ebro on the eastern; but it is found abundantly in the Talegones and Escalote, rivulets forming part of the sources of the Douro, in the Henares, one of the sources of the Tagus, and in the upper part of the Jalon, an important tributary of the Ebro. Widely separated, however, as these three rivers become in their courses to the sea, both east and west, the rivulets I have mentioned as forming their principal sources all take their rise within an area probably not more than twenty miles square, situated nearly in the centre of Spain, and about forty or fifty miles north-east of Madrid. It is from these small streams that the Madrid market is supplied by fishermen of Alhama, Siguenza, and Berlanga; and these streams are the only ones well within the borders of the Peninsula in which, so far as I can discover, the Crayfish is to be found. As before mentioned, Crayfishes are said to be found about Barcelona; but it may possibly turn out that they are really caught in the small streams which, rising in the Pyrenees, afterwards unite to form the river near which Barcelona stands. My correspondents tell me that they can obtain no information of the occurrence of the Crayfish south of Madrid; and they add that if they were known to be found there the markets of the capital would not be solely supplied from the northern streams, as is now the case. The peculiar localization of these crustaceans in the centre of Spain suggests the idea of their having been specially introduced; but experiments in acclimatization are, I believe, unknown in the Peninsula; and without attempting any explanation of the difficulty, I may simply record the fact that the Crayfish is abundant in the rivulets within the limited area I have mentioned.

2. Observations on the Characters of the Echinoidea.—III.  
On some Genera and Species of the *Temnopleuridæ*. By  
F. JEFFREY BELL, M.A., F.Z.S., Professor of Comparative  
Anatomy in King's College.

[Received April 24, 1880.]

(Plate XLI.)

For the purposes of present convenience I adopt the name *Temnopleuridæ* for those forms which are grouped under it by Prof. Alex. Agassiz in his 'Revision of the Echini.' I need not now de-